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Adlai E. Stevenson

12/5/62

This Copy For

NEWS CONFERENCE

862

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH PIERRE SALINGER

DECEMBER 5, 1962

5:40 PM EST

WEDNESDAY

MR. SALINGER: There have been reports out of New York in the last 45 minutes to an hour relating to a letter sent by the President to Ambassador Stevenson. I will now make that letter public.

Q. Could you tell us when it was sent?

MR. SALINGER: It was sent last night and I understand that Ambassador Stevenson received it today around noon.

"Dear Adlai:

"This is just a note to tell you again how deeply I regret the unfortunate stir which has arisen over the statements contained in the Saturday Evening Post article. I think you know how greatly we have all admired your performance at the United Nations in general and during the Security Council discussions and private negotiations connected with the Cuban crisis in particular. I have, of course, valued your advice very highly. That we have eliminated the nuclear menace from Cuba is the best evidence of the prudence of our policy and its execution, in which you played such an active part.

"Our Government has many important challenges in the days ahead; and your continued work at the United Nations will be of inestimable value. Meanwhile, it goes without saying that you have my fullest confidence and best wishes.

"Sincerely yours,"

Q. How is it signed?

A

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"Sincerely yours,"

Q. How is it signed?

MR. SALINGER: I don't have the signature here.

Q. Is there an answer to that?

MR. SALINGER: No.

Q. Is this being released simultaneously in New York?

MR. SALINGER: It is not.

MORE

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Q. When he says the Security Council, he means the United Nations Security Council?

MR. SALINGER: That is right.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END